MICHIGAN AWARDED GRANT FOR $10.6 MILLION FOR DATA SYSTEMS

Program Expanded To Address Early Ed, Postsecondary and Workforce Data Needs

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced that Michigan was awarded $10.6 million for the design and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system. Statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS) grants, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, support the development and implementation of data systems to enable States to examine student progress from early childhood into career, including matching teachers to students, while protecting student privacy and confidentiality consistent with applicable privacy protection laws. Last year, Congress expanded the program to include not only K-12 data systems, but also provide links with pre-K, postsecondary, and workforce data.

"Tracking student progress from birth through college helps teachers in the classroom, helps principals manage and improve their schools, and helps parents better understand the unique educational needs of their child," said Duncan. "It's one of the core reforms at the heart of our agenda and we are eager to work with states to put these systems in place."

State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grants were authorized by the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 and the first grants were awarded in 2005. The 2009 ARRA grantees were selected in a competition based on the merit of the applicants' proposals and the funding available for the program. An independent peer review panel evaluated the proposals on aspects such as need for the project, project goals and outcomes, activities and timeline, management and governance, and personnel and financial resources. The process is independent from Race to the Top and was administered by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the Department of Education.

In total, $250 million was awarded this year through the SLDS grant competition. States received varying award sizes based on differing needs and requests. The full list of award winners is: Arkansas- $9.8 million; Colorado- $17.4 million; Florida - $10.0 million; Illinois - $11.9 million; Kansas - $9.1 million; Maine - $7.3 million; Massachusetts - $13.0 million; Michigan - $10.6 million; Minnesota - $12.4 million; Mississippi - $7.6 million; New York - $19.7 million; Ohio - $5.1 million; Oregon - $10.5 million; Pennsylvania - $14.3 million; South Carolina - $14.9 million; Texas - $18.2 million; Utah - $9.6 million; Virginia - $17.5 million; Washington - $17.3 million; Wisconsin - $13.8 million. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands applied.

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